States under Special Central Assistance during 1998-99 to 2000-01 are as follows:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

States	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
Gujarat	371.40	682.27	1521.88
Maharashtra	1673.92	2067.30	2722.00
Rajasthan	2575.48	2792.68	3738.96
Andhra Pradesh	3338.78	4134.94	3720.00
Madhya Pradesh	2237.08	3303.27	1720.00
Uttar Pradesh	7518.15	9728.65	9398.00

No diversion of SCA fund has been reported.

Constitution of SC and ST Commission

†2385. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to constitute a Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Commission;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any step in this direction, so far; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) Article 338 of the Constitution provides for setting up of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Natioanal Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been set up under this provision.

Appointment of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities

†2386. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a non-disabled person has recently been appointed as the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD); and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the reasons for not appointing a disabled person to a responsible post like the CCPD?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Dr. Uma Tuli has been appointed as Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities with effect from 17.4.2001 after following due procedure. There is no bar as per the provision of Section 57 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 to consider non-disabled candidates who are other wise eligible for this post.

Implementation of directives of SC/ST Commission

2387. SHRI R. N. ARYA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Commission for SC/ST can issue directive's / orders to Government departments, Public Sector Undertakings for providing justice;

(b) if so, the measures to be taken in case their directives/orders are not implemented;

(c) if not, the proper way for getting justice to SCs/STs; and

(d) whether Government propose to give more power to the Commission to get its directives implemented or take action against the authority who does not follow its directives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) As per provision under Article 338 of the Constitution, the National Commission for SCs and STs has all the powers of a civil court trying a suit. As per clause 5 of the said Article, where Report of the Commission relates to the Central Govt., action taken by the concerned Ministry/Deptt. along with the report are laid before both houses of the Parliament.

Where the Report relates to a State, action taken by the concerned State on the recommendations along with the Report are laid before the concerned legislature.

The recommendations of the Commission are given utmost consideration by all the Govts., and appropriate action is taken in all cases.